THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The charter of the Press Information Bureau is to disseminate information to the media on Government policies, programmes and achievements.

Encouragement of regional film makers

2473. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any planning for encouraging and for needful support to regional film makers;

(b) whether it is a fact that some old regional films in various States, including Assam, are being destroyed due to non-availability of the archive facilities;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) whether Government has any specific planning for growth and support of film industry in Assam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) Government has approved a Plan Scheme "Production of film in various regional languages" with an outlay of Rs. 30 crores in the 11th Plan period. The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) is the implementing agency in respect of the said plan scheme. Rs. 6.50 crores has been released to NFDC in 2008-09 and a provision of Rs. 6.50 crores has been made for the year 2009-10 for financing production of films in regional languages.

(b) and (c) While National Film Archive of India (NFAI) does not have concrete information in this regard, the Assam State Film (Finance and Development) Corporation (ASFDC) has been asked to move the material to NFAI till the proposed vault at their new complex is functional.

(d) and (e) Encouragement to film industry in Assam is given through facilities made available at Jyoti Chitraban (Film Studio) Society and facilities provided through Assam State Film (Finance and Development) Corporation Ltd.

Permission to TV channels

†2474. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 459 channels telecast programmes on television in the country at present;

(b) if not, the number thereof;

(c) whether permission to telecast programmes on these channels is taken from Government; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.